



## COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

### JUDICIAL PROCEDURES COMMISSION

383 Hall of Administration / 500 West Temple Street / Los Angeles, California 90012 / (213) 974-1431

### MINUTES OF THE 668th MEETING OF THE JUDICIAL PROCEDURES COMMISSION

The 668th meeting of the Los Angeles County Judicial Procedures Commission was held on November 17, 2005, in Room 372 at the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, California. A list of those in attendance follows:

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Bertrum M. CeDillos, Chair  
Walter Coombs  
William J. Galloway  
Ann Jackson  
Thomas J. Jeffers  
Neal Millard  
Carol Rose

#### **MEMBERS EXCUSED**

Clifton Albright, Vice Chair  
Lee Kanon Alpert  
Nelson L. Atkins  
Andrew Friedman  
Sylvia Scott-Hayes  
Robbi J. Work

Bertrum M. CeDillos  
*Chair*

Clifton W. Albright  
*Vice Chair*

Lee Kanon Alpert  
Nelson L. Atkins  
Walter P. Coombs  
Andrew Friedman  
William J. Galloway  
Ann Jackson  
Thomas J. Jeffers  
Neal S. Millard  
Carol L. Rose  
Sylvia Scott-Hayes  
Robbi J. Work

#### **EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS**

Heather Aubry, LA City Attorney's Office  
Laura Green, LA County Public Defender's Office  
Larry Mason, LA County District Attorney's Office

#### **COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES**

Bea Dieringer, LA County District Attorney's Office  
Honorable John H. Sandoz, Superior Court  
Zoe Venhuizen, Superior Court  
Darby Chen, Superior Court  
Danette E. Meyers, LA County Bar Association

#### **GUESTS**

Julie Bronson, Administrator of LA Superior Court  
Ron Larsen, Legal/Support Services of LA Superior Court  
Terry Weiss, Litigation Support of LA Superior Court

#### **STAFF**

Jim Corbett  
Dedie Ward  
Audra Galang  
Austin Patteson

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair CeDillos called the 668th regular meeting of the Los Angeles County Judicial Procedures Commission (JPC) to order at 12:25 p.m.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Commissioner Ann Jackson was asked to lead everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance. Introductions of the Commissioners, Ex-Officio Members, Staff and Guests followed.

### **CHAIR'S REPORT**

Chair CeDillos thanked Zoe Venhuizen for her assistance in arranging speakers to give presentations on the discussion topics developed at the JPC roundtable meeting.

Jim Corbett announced that the Commission's annual Holiday Celebration is scheduled for December 15<sup>th</sup> and will be held at Kendall's Brasserie and Bar.

### **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF JULY 21, AUGUST 18, SEPTEMBER 15 AND OCTOBER 20, 2005**

The approval for the Minutes of the July 21, August 18, September 15, and October 20, 2005 meetings were postponed due to the lack of a quorum.

### **GUEST SPEAKER – MS. JULIE L. BRONSON, COURT ADMINISTRATOR, COURT-ANNEX ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION (ADR) PROGRAM**

Chair CeDillos welcomed and introduced Ms. Julie L. Bronson, Administrator for the Los Angeles Superior Court, Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Program who gave an overview on the program which provides alternative options for settling disputes between parties. Services which are offered include processes such as mediation, arbitration and settlement conferences. These processes are less formal than court proceedings and provide opportunities for litigants to reach an agreement using a problem solving approach rather than the more adversarial approach of litigation.

The Court Mediation Program has been in existence since 1995 and provides the services of a neutral or third party to litigants. Currently, the Court has a panel of over 3000 volunteers working with the mediation program.

Ms. Bronson explained that Mediators help facilitate a discussion in which the parties reach a mutually agreed upon settlement. An Arbitrator, which is an attorney, listens to each side in a dispute and issues a decision based on the evidence. The decision is non-binding unless the parties agree in writing to a binding arbitration. The Settlement Conference which is conducted by a retired judge, assist the parties in negotiating their own settlement and may evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the case.

Today, most disputes are being settled through the ADR Program. Parties can select a mediator or arbitrator from the Court Party Pay Panel or Pro Bono Panel or may hire someone privately.

The Court also provides information to the public about the ADR program via the internet, providing access to a variety of services which include detailed profiles on ADR volunteers, an overview of the Court ADR program, names of randomly selected neutrals matching case criteria and desired locations, and ADR forms to complete, print or update on the computer.

Following a question and answer period, Chair CeDillos thanked Ms. Bronson for her informative presentation.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES**

#### **Child Custody Exchange**

Bea Dieringer gave an update on the progress of the exchange program as follows:

- The Temple City and Carson Sheriff stations are both on board and looking forward to the start of the program.
- Walk-throughs of both stations have been conducted and the areas where the exchanges will occur have been identified.
- Phones and faxes are being ordered for both stations.
- The program brochures are being finalized for publication. Commission Services staff will assist with the initial printing and distribution of the brochures.
- Judges have been alerted that the two stations will be available for exchanges and have been asked to provide referrals.
- A kick-off campaign is being planned to promote the new exchange centers.

#### **Los Angeles County Bar Association**

Danette E. Meyers, Los Angeles County Bar Association, stated that the association is one of the largest legal organizations in the nation with over 24,000 members. Ms. Meyers also provided information about on-going programs and various special services which are available to the public.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

### **MATTERS NOT ON THE POSTED AGENDA**

Commissioner Coombs informed the Commission about recent Los Angeles Times' articles investigating mismanagement of estates by conservators appointed to protect the elderly. The Board of Supervisors recently created a taskforce comprised of various county departments and department heads, to look into this matter. Darby Chen noted that his department has been assigned to the task force and he will keep the Commission apprised as they assess the issue.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.